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Office of Military Representative of the President
Room 390, Executive Office Building
Washington 25, D. C.

July 12, 1961

MEMORANDUM TO: Executive Officer to the
Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Letter from Bulgarian National Front

In accordance with our telephone conversation,
I am forwarding herewith a letter from the Bulgarian
National Front, addressed to the President, making
numerous allegations about "U.S. Intelligence Services."

It would be appreciated if you could arrange to
let me have appropriate background comments on the
letter, and a suggested draft reply in the name of
Ralph Dungan.

Thomas A. Parrott

Enclosure

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 25X20
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2006

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61-56881

BULGARIAN NATIONAL FRONT OF AMERICA, INC.

P. O. BOX 2152

GRAND CENTRAL STATION NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

THE WHITE HOUSE

July 3, 1961

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RECEIVED

President John F. Kennedy
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

In my position as President of the Bulgarian National Front and President of its predecessor in Bulgaria, The Union of the Bulgarian National Legions, I feel compelled by facts and circumstances to call to your attention certain practices and policies of the American Intelligence Services handling Bulgarian political affairs. I hope that the matters discussed hereinafter would be given careful and serious consideration for the benefit of the common cause pursued by the U.S. Government and the organizations which I have the honor to represent. I was prompted to address this letter personally to you by your repeatedly stated commitments to oppose communism in its global strategy, to promote the cause of freedom, to do everything in your power to mobilize all available political forces for an aggressive challenge to Communist oppression, and to assist the captive nations.

It was with this understanding that the members of the Bulgarian National Front in the U.S. endorsed your nomination for the presidency and actively campaigned for your election. To be correctly understood, I am not bringing up this subject to make a declaration of flattery, nor to claim special partisan consideration for my position. This is simply a statement of fact. When our friends decided to give you their political support it was done in the sincere belief that they were serving the best interests of America and the enslaved Bulgarian people.

The problem which I want to raise concerns the attitude adopted by the U.S. Intelligence Services on Bulgarian political matters abroad and in Bulgaria.

I have reliable information relating to the fact, that the above mentioned Services, when recruiting their agents for underground work in Bulgaria, approach primarily former members of the Union of the Bulgarian National Legions by assuring them that this is done with my knowledge, with my

authorization, on my instructions, on my recommendation and that I am working for these Services. All this is done on the assumption that these people would not commit themselves for conspiratorial work had this entire operation been carried without my consent, had it not been under my direction and personal encouragement. I understand that approximately 75% of their subversive apparatus in Bulgaria is composed by former members of the Union of the Bulgarian National Legions. I personally know a great number of those who are involved in this affair. I am also informed that the experience of the U.S. Intelligence Services has taught them that the members of the Union of the Bulgarian National Legions are the only and the most reliable political force against communism in Bulgaria and that all reports coming from Bulgaria even from sources of opposite political camps confirm this truth.

May I take this opportunity at the outset and say that I feel a great moral satisfaction of the fact that the U.S. Services have discovered and secretly given credit to my name and to my movement. I am more gratified of the fact that people who are most reliable and most loyal for underground work against communism are those who are called to take part in it by your Services in my name and in the name of the organizations which I represent - the Bulgarian National Front and the former Union of the Bulgarian National Legions. However, this gratification still does not change the fact that the practices and the policies of the U.S. Intelligence Services in this respect are an open fraud and misrepresentation, since I have nothing to do with these Services. The former members of the Union of the Bulgarian National Legions are being misled, lured, lied to, and exploited for political activities which almost inevitably lead to the firing squad. All this is done by fraudulent misrepresentation, by faking a mistaken belief in these people that they are called to duty by me. This entire affair should be placed in its proper perspective and political framework and judged by most elementary political and moral standards.

At this point I wish to state it clearly that I am under a moral and political obligation to protect those who have entrusted me with their confidence and who are ready to embark on a most dangerous mission, fatal for their lives, PRESUMABLY IN MY NAME. I do not expect that anyone will deprive me from fulfilling my obligation to my friends whom I have led against communism in the past, for whom I am still a symbol and who still trust my leadership to such an extent that your Intelligence Services have found it convenient to use fraudulent methods to recruit them for their work.

The important aspect of this method of work is the fact that while in public the U.S. Government agencies have taken a reserved, openly negative and frequently hostile view with regard to Bulgarian nationalist movements and any than any

consideration which would be interpreted as an act of political recognition, when it is a matter of subversive activities of which nobody openly admits responsibility, the former members of the Union of the Bulgarian National Legions are found expendable and convenient tools. In other words, when the struggle for liberation demands human blood - the members of the Union of the Bulgarian National Legions are first in the line. When it is a matter of political commitments the Bulgarian National Movements are not only forgotten, but are subjects to organized provocations and unbelievable slander, vilification and ostracism. There is no need pointing out that these people in Bulgaria will sooner or later learn the truth and that their sacrifices are worthless as a political act, that they have been driven into this affair by false information. I would be failing my obligations as a political leader had I refused to call your attention to these facts, had I shrunk in silence and resignation in the face of this fraud perpetrated by the U.S. Intelligence Services.

I realize that there must be some good reason for the U.S. Intelligence Services to have indulged in these unorthodox practices. I would not sweep under the rug the accusations against the Union of the Bulgarian National Legions. As a matter of fact these last days the same Intelligence Services who go to my friends in Bulgaria and ask them to join them for the overthrow of the Communist Government, printed and distributed a picture of me taken from a high-school paper showing me in the uniform of the Union of the Bulgarian National Legions at the age of 22, have faked the letters SS on this uniform and have added a derisive caption suggesting anti-semitism and nazism. I am sure that in their files these same services have accumulated so much biased material that they would be able to confuse any student of Bulgarian political affairs. We are accused without an official indictment, we are tried without a trial and we are sentenced without a jury. We are neither officially condemned nor officially recognized. This situation is easily exploited for actions of fraudulence against which I am most vigorously protesting.

Yet I would not miss this chance to speak out for those who have been accused, tried, and sentenced without having anything to regret; anything to feel guilty about or to owe anybody any embarrassing explanation. I want to take this occasion to speak for them and to bring their case for a trial, for a condemnation or for an acquittal.

First of all here is how we came about to form the Union of Bulgarian National Legions. The moral and political defeat suffered by the Bulgarian people in World War I, followed by a disastrous economic crisis and a series of corrupt national

Governments provided a fertile ground for the rise and spread of communism in Bulgaria in the nineteen-twenties and nineteen-thirties. Poverty stricken peasantry mercilessly exploited by Government protected interests, fast growing unemployed intelligentsia and class conscious workingpeople seeking alleviation of their misery saw no other alternative but to accept communism. Two Communist led uprisings almost brought Bulgaria under red dictatorship. The ruling class on the other side, unable to cope with the situation and concerned primarily with protection of its own privileges saw no other alternative but to resort to authoritarian dictatorship.

Exasperated by this national disgrace we mobilized the younger generation behind a program for radical economic reforms designed to undermine the appeal of communism by offering a responsible approach to national problems. Our call for a national regeneration and economic reforms was answered by the Bulgarian people and in a very short period our membership rose to 200,000. Bulgarian schools and universities - turned by Government negligence into red castles - were converted into national educational institutions and saved from communism. This unexpected success of our movement alarmed international communism and we became subject to vicious attacks. Communism saw in us its most dangerous enemies. The Government saw in us a tremendous challenge. Government and Communist forces allied together against us. We threatened the ideological and political concepts of communism. We threatened the economic privileges of the Bulgarian ruling classes. We became a popular movement. Many a time this movement was outlawed by the Government and its leaders imprisoned. The Government created its own "Anti-Communist" Nazi type youth movements. Communist and fellow travelers branded us as nazis and fascists - yet we never had anything to do either directly or indirectly with nazism or with fascism. Nazi and Fascist states in the west gave all of their support to Government controlled movements.

We remained, from the very beginning to the very end, exponents of radical economic reforms in Bulgaria, against political and criminal corruption, and for a democratic parliamentary government. We offered a third alternative to the Bulgarian people - no communism and no totalitarianism - but a popular government with freedom and justice for all. The present day liberal concept in America or national progressive movements in the newly emerging nations are the closest parallel to what our movement in Bulgaria was like.

Unfortunately we started this movement in an international atmosphere and set up where any dynamic alternative to communism bears the stigma of a time which has now sunk into the twilight of negation. Yet we were scrupulously

honest and sincere in our endeavors to remodel pre-war Bulgaria. To end this argument I wish to draw your attention to the fact that in the eyes of world communism the policies of the American Democratic Party are no more and no less fascist policies. Bulgarian communists still refer to us in such terms. These are the terms used by our political opponents and various types of political opportunists who are envious of our background and feverishly dig in the past for false arguments to pervert and vilify our record. However, we see in this record a certificate entitling us to join with deeper sense of duty and responsibility the struggle of the Bulgarian people for freedom.

It is now openly admitted that those who spent some time in the school of the Union of Bulgarian National Legions are most loyal, most responsible and most reliable fighters against communism. It is about time these people receive some public recognition in America. As about the Bulgarian people it has given them already this recognition for a long time. Yet the American Intelligence Services prefer to continue their hostility and their negative attitude towards them. The questions that puzzle me and my friends with regard to this situation are these: Why Americans refuse to face the reality in Bulgarian politics and especially in a situation where they stand all the chances to win the loyal and dedicated friendship of the people whom they mostly need and have nothing to lose?

My answer to this query is that the U.S. Intelligence Services are deliberately misled by some of their Bulgarian agents some who have cooperated with and contributed for the establishment of the communist regime in Bulgaria and fear that American recognition for the Union of Bulgarian National Legions will put them out of business; or for opportunistic considerations have served nazis and communists and fear that acceptance of ideological opponents to communism will end their exploitation of the struggle for freedom for personal benefits.

I understand that the U.S. needs the U.S. Intelligence Services. I would say that the U.S. needs a better Intelligence Services. But I am afraid that the top echelon of the U.S. Intelligence Services handling Bulgarian affairs are determined to keep their apparatus of fairly inadequate people and thus keep the flow of misinformation to poison and undermine American policies with regard to Bulgaria. This apparatus seems determined to fail the American political work among Bulgarians and persistently acts against the best interests of America in a future free Bulgaria.

Above all, this apparatus seems to be determined to undermine any rapprochement between America and the younger generation of Bulgarian national political movements represented by the former Union of the Bulgarian National Legions and the present Bulgarian National Front by keeping them in a state of political quarantine and faking all kinds of false information and denunciations against them. Lately these vicious attacks are directed against me. My explanations heretofore are plain enough and I feel entitled to ask a few fair questions:

✓ - Should I keep silent against these attacks instigated by known to me U.S. Intelligence agents?

✓ - Should I inform my friends in Bulgaria that I have nothing to do with those who have and who are going to visit them and have asked or are going to ask them to join, IN MY NAME, their intelligence work in Bulgaria and thus destroy the entire intelligence network of the United States in Bulgaria?

✓ - Should I allow in silence the fraudulent abuse of the idealism of the former members of the Union of the Bulgarian National Legions?

✓ - Should I stand off and let those who have entrusted me with their confidence fall misinformed victims to hostile Intelligence Services who are interested only in their blood but not in their political convictions?

I felt that I had to bring these matters to your attention in the hope that a second look over the handling of Bulgarian political affairs by the U.S. Intelligence Services may bring a change in their attitude and any unilateral action on my behalf or any public discussion on the issues raised in this letter will become un-necessary.

I am looking forward with confidence in your intervention on these matters and expect to see the results in a not too distant future.

Most respectfully yours,

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